

## **MID AM DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 26, 2021 MINUTES**

The Mid Am District (District) Annual Meeting was held in person at the Tuttle Crossing Marriott in Columbus, Ohio. The meeting was also presented virtually via a Zoom conference call due to Covid-19 virus travel restrictions. The meeting was called to order Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 8:30 am EST, by President Paul Day. Biff Cummings performed a roll-call. A quorum was present.

**1. Minutes:** Biff Cummings offered minutes for review. There were no comments. Bill Graver made a motion to approve minutes. Doug Losure seconded. The Board voted to approve.

### **2. Financial Reports**

- a. Mid American District: Tom Gawlik presented a summary of the District Financial Report that District. He indicated that the balance is up \$400k from last year. He added that the financial report is on the website.
- b. USA Hockey Budget 2021/2022: Paul Day reported on USAH Budget for 21/22 Season. He indicated that the budget is on the website. In summary:
  - Registration and fee income was down due to the impacts of Covid.
  - The USAH Board voted on a fee increase that wasn't passed.
  - USAH's Financial Committee offered in budget with decreases. The current budget is \$50m
  - The USAH Foundation has had positive returns for both USAH and the Mid Am District. The District's intent is to use the gains to grow the game.

**3. USAH Playing Rule Changes:** John Karolcik presented the USAH playing rule changes. John addressed questions regarding the rule changes.

- Rule Change #151: added standardized match penalty and allows "plea" bargain. Options are; 1. Have hearing. 2. Delegate hearing. Or 3. Accept plea bargain.
- Rule Change #20: Non-suspended player is allowed to be on the bench but has to wear a jersey.
- Rule Change #304: Skaters are defined as everyone except goalies.
- Rule Change #148a: Suspended player or coach cannot be in the locker room 40 minutes before or 30 minutes after a game. The rule outlines activities. Violations will be handled as a supplemental discipline.
- Rule Change #34: Establishes allowance for short penalties. Mid Am voted to approve a blanket waiver for 14u and older teams to use 2-minute penalties.
- Rule Change #36B: Allows a reduced major penalty by waiver from the Affiliate (Mid Am). Mid Am will allow the penalty length to stay the same as previous rules.
- Rule Change #41B: Allows a reduced match penalty by waiver from the Affiliate. Mid Am agreed to allow the penalty length to stay the same as previous rules.
- Rule Change #8B: Changes clarify "puck control" in defining checking. Checking is to gain the possession of the puck, not removing the player possession of the puck as in previous rules.

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- Second coach violations increase the penalty
  - Abuse of officials – banging of boards, will be a game misconduct
  - Assault of official: language changed.
  - Ice Rule – Icing will be called during penalties.
  - 15/5 rule changed to 12/4 rule.
4. **Registration:** Keith Kenitzer reported that Mid Am’s registration numbers from the past season were down 13%. USAH was down 19.2%. Adult registrations were down 30%. Keith reported that the registration portal is scheduled to open July 25th.
5. **DEI:** Gui Bradshaw provided a summary. He indicated that the new USAH president would serve on the diversity task force. Gui thinks that that will be positive. Mid Am has established a budget of \$15k to be used for training across the District.
6. **Section Reports**
- a. Coaching: Bill Switaj reported that coaching clinics would continue to be online. Bill let coaches know that physical locations are set, but anyone can sign up regardless of location. Trainer/coaches are now being trained for clinics later this summer and fall. Bill reviewed the continued education requirement that coaches need at least 5 hours of training every three years.
  - b. Officials: Jim Weaver had no oral report. He submitted a written report.
  - c. High School: Kathy Santora had no oral report. Her written report was submitted.
  - d. Disabled: No oral report. A written report was submitted.
  - e. Girls/Women: Ladd Wagner reported that three girls from Team Pittsburgh medaled at Nationals. He thanked his committee. He also reported that USAH gave a female hockey award to Gilmore Academy.
  - f. Roger Sharrer Awards: Kathy Santora announced that RSA had 28 applications and 27 awards. The total amount awarded was \$65k. Information about the recipients will be coming out via email. Kathy reviewed the history of her dad (Roger Sharrer) and the award's background. She thanked the committee. She indicated that goalie quick-change equipment was available for purchase.
  - g. Safe Sport: Murray Stall indicated his report is online. He summarized that there were 60 to 70 filings last year and that those numbers were disappointing since there weren’t games most of the season. He indicated that he is hoping to limit the number of filings by having resources at the state level to help associations pre-assess claims. Murray highlighted that SafeSport only addresses participants, not the general population/parents/fans. Sometimes a simple “I’m sorry” will resolve most of these matters. Murray indicated that he put a summary on the website.
  - h. Screening: Kaye Pinkowski reported that there is now a national vendor doing screening and that screening is required every two years, as before. She highlighted that Pennsylvania needs three additional documents and that screens won’t pass until all three items are filed. Two can be obtained online, but the third requires

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- fingerprinting. At one point, 700 Pennsylvanians were in limbo. Typical filing costs for everyone except Pennsylvania are 30 dollars and usually take seven days to receive. Kaye reported that “red flags” are reviewed by individual national committees and that all communication relative to red flags will come from the national office.
- i. State Reports: There were no oral reports. State Vice Presidents submitted written reports.
7. **Youth Council:** Kaye reported that youth council met regularly over the past year with the primary goal of having national tournaments. It wasn't easy because of the individual state requirements for Covid. Many tournaments were hosted in Texas because they had fewer restrictions. Kaye summarized the locations of Nationals for next year (2022).
  8. **Governance:** Kaye reported that USOPC is requiring USAH to modify the size of its board and its structure. A committee was formed to develop and propose changes to meet USOPC’s requirements. Meetings have been weekly. Reorganization will likely result in a smaller executive board with a larger congress beneath it. One-third of the Board will need to be ex-athletes. This will be the biggest challenge. The reorganization is expected by January 2023.
  9. **President Report:** Paul reported that Mid Am could also need to be reorganized following USAH’s reorganization. Paul also reported that Tier II States will limit the number of teams to eight. Paul summarized block grants, and the potential use of \$39k in funds that were rolled over from last year. This year's grant is \$109k of which 20% will be targeted for growth initiatives, and 15% will target DEI initiatives. Mid Am is looking for other opportunities to use funds for growth and plan on partnering with the Pgh Penguins and Columbus Blue Jackets to help grow the game. Announcements will be coming out for try hockey, IP programs, coaching, refereeing, etc (programs to use funds to grow the game.)
    - Paul announced that Gui Bradshaw was awarded New Leader Award from the District.
    - Paul indicated that Districts and States will be held from March 3rd thru 7th. The deadline for application will be January 15th with payment.
    - Paul received a question re: USAH sanctioned events (PA Middle School Issues). Paul emphasized that participants need to be aware that insurance coverage does not apply to mixed-age teams. Associations with such teams will need to participate with different uniforms than their USAH registered teams in non-sanction events.
  10. **Elections:** Elections were held online this week. KK announced the winners:
    - Paul Day - President
    - Biff Cummings - Secretary
    - Tom Cline - Director
    - Roy Davis - Indiana VP
    - Elisa Millett - Kentucky VP
    - Jim Smith - Ohio VP
    - Rich Hixon - Pennsylvania VP
    - Kathy Santora - USAH High School Representative

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**11. Old Business:** none

Doug Losure made a motion to adjourn. John Folmer seconded. The Board voted to approve. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

**Attendance (in no particular order):** Gina Colligan, Tom Gawlik, Roy Davis, Lori Billings, Tim O'Shaughnessy, Kaye Pinkowski, Paul Day, Biff Cummings, John Karolcik, Doug Losure, Keith Kenitzer, Jim Weaver, Ladd Wagner, John Folmer, Murray Stall, Elisa Millett, Cathy Fievet, Beth Stalnaker, Gui Bradshaw, Tom Cline, Kathy Santora, JD Hobbs, Zach Hill, Dalton Haas

Meeting minutes by Biff Cummings